

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

PART I – BACKGROUND

1. Identification:

Contracting Office: OAM/RTPPOD/OARMSC

Program Office: Office of Environmental Information (OEI)
OTOP/NCC

Project Officer: Timothy Richards
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2. Nature and/or Description: Provide comprehensive archive support services to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its designated contractors, during normal working hours (7 a.m. to 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, exclusive of Federal holidays).

3. Description of Service: Since the early-1970's, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through its Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC) field station, has employed remote sensing technology as a method of assessing environmental condition and change in support of EPA Regional activities.

The EPA Remote Sensing Archive contains materials collected and produced in support of EPA regional requests as well as from research projects primarily from the Office of Research and Development's Landscape Ecology branch. The entire collection of aerial photographs, remote sensing data, reports, graphics, maps, metadata and other official records that have been compiled as part of the EPIC mission reside in this facility. Having total accountability and ready access to this data is critical to the ability of the EPA to carry out its mission.

The Image Archive facility is located at 4200 South Maryland Parkway, Building D in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is a Government leased/provided space; it is approximately 7,000 square feet.

The Contractor shall provide a range of services necessary to efficiently and effectively operate the Image Archive facility. Any personnel assigned by the Contractor to this contract shall possess the requisite skills, experience and education necessary to competently perform the functions described in this statement of work.

The current contract is EP-D-05-086 and will expire 3/31/11. This request is to continue the services provided by the contractor for a period not to exceed 6 months while a new contract is negotiated and awarded.

ESTIMATED VALUE: \$162,406.80

4. Statutory Authority: This justification cites Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-2(a)(2) which implements 41 U.S.C. 253 (c)(2) – Unusual and compelling urgency.

5. Contractor's Unique Qualifications: The current contractor, Integrated Solutions was an 8(a) company at the time of award and the acquisition of these services was acquired through SBA's 8(a) program. The current contract will expire on March 31, 2011.

In the past, services for remote sensing technology have been acquired by the Office of Research and Development (ORD) in support of EPA Regional activities. Additionally OSWER has supported these activities as a part of the overall EPA Superfund Program. However, due to the nature of the services having evolved toward a Geospatial Integration Solution (GIS), OEI was tasked to assume responsibility for the actual remote sensing services, which includes data collection, processing, interpretation, and digital analysis. The documents produced by these services are housed in the archive facility.

While it was known that the current contract would expire in March 2011, the decision as to which Program Office would acquire support for the services, wasn't known until sometime around the end of FY10. When that decision was made, OEI immediately began their acquisition planning for the Remote Sensing services piece. However, they were not aware that support for the archive facility was part of the overall "program" and thus did not include this piece in their acquisition plan. When they realized that this was a necessary part of the program, they decided to combine the two requirements into one Task Order to be acquired under the ITS-EPA-II vehicles. When the acquisition package was submitted to the Office of Acquisition Management, it was discovered that there were two existing contracts combined and that one of the contracts was currently acquired the SBA's 8(a) program. At that point, it was decided that the 8(a) portion would be separated out and kept in that program.

At this point in the process, there is not enough time to acquire a new contractor for the archive facility support prior to the expiration of the current contract. In many cases, the lack of time could be blamed on poor planning, however, in this case it is not a product of poor planning, but a product of poor communication. It is clear that there are other 8(a) contractors capable of doing the work required, and this is actively being pursued with the SBA. In the short term, however, it is imperative that the services being provided continue until another 8(a) contract can be put in place.

Integrated Solution Services (ISS) has been providing the services and can continue to do so at a cost that has already been found to be reasonable. Technically, they are performing in a satisfactory manner and it is felt that it would not be beneficial to the government to transition another contractor in the short term and then possibly transition another contractor in six months. Integrated Solutions has unique capabilities due to the experience of their personnel, their experience with the operation of the facility, and knowledge of EPA's requirements and SOPs.

6. Description of Efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as is practicable: While only one source will be solicited for this 6-month effort, at least two eligible 8(a) firms have been identified for consideration of the long-term effort. At this

point, it is not practicable to solicit other sources for this effort due to the lack of time and the need for the expertise and experience of the incumbent contractor.

7. Determination that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable:

The Government negotiated the use of the contractor's established prices, resulting in no price increase from those in Option IV of EP-D-05-086. Prices under EP-D-05-086 were found to be fair and reasonable prior to award of that contract. For this 6-month effort, the contractor agreed to continue performance at the Option IV prices. Based on this, prices for this interim contract are determined to be fair and reasonable.

8. A description of the Market Research conducted: Market research has been conducted for the long term eventual contract that will be awarded as soon as possible utilizing SBA's 8(a) program. It is clear that there are at least 2 vendors who are capable of performing this work and who are currently 8(a) certified.

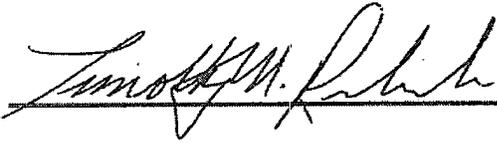
9. Other facts supporting the JOFOC: N/A

10. Listing of Sources who have expressed an interest. One company has expressed an interest in this acquisition. That vendor is an 8(a) company and will be considered for the long term eventual contract. There has been much correspondence with this vendor, a capability statement has been received, and a site visit will be arranged.

11. Action taken to remove barriers to competition: Only one source will be solicited for this short 6-month effort. The follow-on contract will be below \$3.5M, so competition is not required to utilize the 8(a) program for these services. As far as the follow-on to this 6-month acquisition is concerned, prior to selecting the firm to offer to SBA, the EPA will review the capabilities of several 8(a) firms and arrange for a site visit for those who are interested. From those firms, one will be selected for award.

Program Office Certification

I hereby certify any supporting data contained herein which forms the basis for the Justification for Other than Full and Open Competition is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.



3/24/2011

Date

CONTRACTING OFFICER'S DETERMINATION

I certify that the above justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

APPROVAL:



3/25/11

Anna L. Mustard, Contracting Officer, OARM Service Center
RTP Procurement Operations Division

Date